

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CU-04 PC-01 OMB-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12  
/090 W

-----101296 191520Z /46

R 191045Z AUG 77  
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6577  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 2179

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, SF  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED CONSTITUTINAL CHANGES: DEKLERK OF DIE TRANSVALER

REF: JOHANNESBURG 2051 (NOTAL)

1. WILLEM DE KLERK, EDITOR OF DIE TRANSVALER, TOLD CONGEN  
AUGUST 18 THAT FOLLOWING SAG'S MEETINGS THIS WEEK WITH COLORED  
AND INDIAN LEADERS ON PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF MULTI-PARLIAMENT  
POLITICAL SYSTEM, PM VORSTER WOULD CHAIR NATIONAL PARTY PARLI-  
MENTARY AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS CAUCUS IN CAPE TOWN AUGUST 20  
AT WHICH ALL EDITORS OF AFRIKAANS DAILIES WOULD ALSO BE PRESENT.  
THIS WOULD BE FIRST TIME EDITORS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN SUCH  
IMPORTANT POLITICAL MEETING, AND DE KLERK WAS NOT WHOLLY  
SANGUINE HE COULD PLAY PROPAGANDA ROLE PM CLEARLY HOPED HE  
WOULD.

2. STILL, DEKLERK THOUGHT PROPOSAL COULD BE GOOD BEGINNING AT  
CHANGE, PROVIDED EVEN MORE POWERS DEVOLVED ON NON-WHITES WITHIN  
YEAR. THERE HAD TO BE CREDIBLE ASSURANCE THIS WAS BUT FIRST  
STEP TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF TRULY FEDERAL/CANTONAL SYSTEM OF  
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GOVERNMENT. HIS OWN SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION, TO BE DELINEATED  
IN EDITORIAL COMING WEEKEND, WOULD BE ADVOCACY ADDITIONAL  
PARLIAMENT FOR BLACKS (URBAN AND HOMELAND BLACKS TO BE LUMPED  
TOGETHER.)

3. DEKLERK WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT COLOREDS WOULD AGREE TO SCHEME,  
PROBABLY NOT SONNY LEON AND LABOR PARTY, HE SAID, THOUGH

THERE WOULD BE SOME AGONIZING OVER WHETHER TO GIVE PROPOSAL  
FAIR CHANCE.

4. AS FOR AFRIKANERS, HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WERE NOW MORE  
VERLIGTES THAN VERKRAMPTE AND THAT PRESSURE FOR CHANGE  
WAS TOO GREAT FOR CABINET TO RESIST BEYOND ONE YEAR. HE  
CITED EXAMPLE OF FONMIN PIK BOTHA, WHO WAS HIDEBOUND VERKRAMPTE  
TEN YEARS AGO AND WAS NOW VERLIG (EXCEPT AT HUSTINGS). (HE  
HAD NOT MUCH REGARD FOR BOTHA, WHOM HE REGARDED AS OPPORTUNIST  
AND LACKING IN SUBSTANCE).

5. DEKLERK SAID HE WAS GREATLY PERTURBED AT APPARENT PRETORIA  
MANDATE TO POLICE IN SOWETO TO CRACK DOWN HARD ON STUDENTS AND  
DISSIDENTS. HE STATED THAT IF ONLY POLICE COMMISSIONER JAN  
VISSER WERE LEFT IN COMPLETE CHARGE, PROSPECT FOR RESTORATION  
TRANQUILITY WOULD BE INFINITELY BETTER. AGAIN HE HAD CONTRIBUTION  
HE WOULD MAKE IN THIS AREA, NAMELY TO ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN  
DR MOTLANA, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF TEN, AND DEPUTY MINISTER  
BANTU ADMINISTRATION CRUYWAGEN, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS OPEN TO REASON.  
AS HE HAD EDITORIALIZED EARLIER, HE THOUGHT COMMITTEE OF TEN  
OFFERED BEST HOPE FOR PEACEABLE EVOLUTION IN SOWETO.

6. COMMENT: DEKLERK IS OPTIMIST WHO WON'T QUIT. HE REFUSED  
PRESIDENCY OF POTCHEFSTROOM UNIVERSITY LAST MONTH IN ORDER  
REMAIN AT HELM OF TRANSVAAL'S MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRIKAAND DAILY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009